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Case MB 377

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Roland Cäsar et al

Title: RECIPROCATING-PISTON MACHINE WITH AN ARTICULATION
ARRANGEMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 7, 2003

SIR:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - SECTION 1.97(b)

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97 and 1.98, applicants' representative hereby submits US Patent & Trademark Office Form PTO-1449. Copies of the references cited therein are submitted for consideration in the examination of the above-referenced patent application. It is respectfully requested that they be made of record, along with whatever references the Examiner may find in the course of a search, should the Examiner consider them material to the subject application.

What is considered to be the closest reference, that is, DE 197 49 727, which is assigned to the assignees of the present application, has been discussed in detail in the introductory part of the application.

The references do not disclose that in a reciprocating-piston machine, in particular a refrigerant compressor for a motor vehicle air-conditioning system, including a machine shaft, a plurality of pistons are arranged, at the same distance from the machine shaft, on a cylinder envelope defined by the axes of the pistons and extending

around the machine shaft, and an annular pivoting disc which is driven by the machine shaft and which engages the pistons via a joint arrangement, the joint arrangement has an at least partially spherical receptacle, in which at least one sliding element structure is arranged moveably relative to the associated piston and relative to the pivoting disc, including a first sliding element having a first sliding face in the form of a spherical segment with a first geometric center (M_1, M_3), and a second sliding element having a second sliding face in the form of a spherical segment with a second geometric center (M_2, M_4) arranged at a distance from the first geometric center.

This Statement is hereby submitted under Section 1.97(b) since it is being submitted concurrently with the filing of the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,



Klaus J. Bach, Reg. No.: 26832

